AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring images to a wooden support by means of an apparatus provided with at least one source of a laser beam, means for focusing and moving the laser beam relative to ~~this~~ the wooden support, as well as at least one adjustment unit for the emission of said laser beam, the method comprising the steps of:

a. at least one of acquiring ~~and/or~~and creating an image to be transferred;

b. converting ~~the~~ information of ~~this~~ the image into instructions for adjusting ~~the~~ emission, movement and focusing of the laser beam relative to said support;

c. operating said moving and focusing means and said at least one adjustment unit according to said instructions to reproduce said image on said wooden support;

~~characterized in that~~ d. said at least one adjustment unit ~~adjusts~~ adjusting the emission of said laser beam by directly varying ~~the~~ at least one of (1) pumping of ~~the~~ active material ~~and/or by~~and (2) varying ~~the~~ operation of a modulator placed within ~~the~~ a resonant cavity of said at least one source of a laser beam; and

e. locally subjecting said support to irradiation by means of said laser beam, with an energy per surface unit ranging from 0 j/cm^2 to 43,7 j/cm^2, in order to blacken the surface portion of the support being subjected to said local irradiation.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said image~~, either acquired and/or created,~~ is an image in digital format.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said image is in ~~the~~ a bitmap, raster, or vectorial format.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said image is at least one of acquired ~~and/or~~and created in black and white or in shades of grey.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said image is an image of wood grains.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said image of wood grains is obtained by means of random generation.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said wooden support is selected from at least one of pistol or carbine grips, rifle butts ~~and/or~~and forearms.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said instructions for adjusting the emission, movement, and focusing of the laser beam relative to said support allow said laser beam to penetrate within said wooden support by a thickness ranging from 0,1 and 1 mm.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~20~~12, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said support is locally subjected to irradiation by means of said laser beam, with an energy per surface unit ranging from 2,35 j/cm^2 to 43,7 j/cm^2, in order to blacken the surface portion of the support being subjected to said local irradiation.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said wooden support is treated by means of additives for accelerating ~~the~~ carbonization and bleaching thereof, prior to said step of operating said moving and focusing means and said at least one adjustment unit according to said instruction for reproducing said image on said wooden support.